

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 05297 01 OF 02 251544Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 AF-04 ACDA-10
IO-06 DHA-02 PM-03 SP-02 L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 /061 W
-----251643Z 103921 /53

R 251532Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6820
INFO AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 05297

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, XA, GW
SUBJECT: FRANZ-JOSEF STRAUSS ON AFRICA AND EAST-
WEST RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY. STRAUSS,RECENTLY RETURNED FROM TOGO
AND ZAIRE, SAID THE TOGO LEADERSHIP IS CONCERNED
BY POSSIBLY DANGEROUS EVOLUTION OF EVENTS IN DAHOMEY
AND NIGERIA AND IS INTERESTED IN OBTAINING ARMS FROM
THE FRG. HE WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE ABILITY OF
ZAIRE TO DEFEND ITSELF EFFECTIVELY AGAINST THE
INVASION OF SHABA; HE CLAIMED MOBUTU IS THINKING OF
STRENGTHENING HIS FORCES WITH WHITE VOLUNTEERS AND
IS EVEN CONTEMPLATING GETTING ARMS FROM SOUTH AFRICA.
STRAUSS IS DEEPLY WORRIED BY THE PROSPECT OF ZAIRE
BREAKING UP AS WELL AS NIGERIA; HE BELIEVES WE
SHOULD NOT FORCE SOUTH AFRICA TO THE WALL AND SHOULD
WORK TO PERSUADE IAN SMITH TO MAKE A SETTLEMENT WITH
BISHOP MUGABE. OVERALL, HE FINDS THE WESTERN WORLD
IN A PARLOUS STATE, AND SEES THE SOVIET UNION AS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 05297 01 OF 02 251544Z

BEING FACED BEFORE LONG WITH THE DILEMMA OF CHANGING
ITS INTERNAL PRACTICES TO PERMIT MORE FREEDOM OF
EXPRESSION OR LAUNCHING FOREIGN ADVENTURES TO REINFORCE
ITS AUTHORITARIAN INTERNAL RULE; HE BELIEVES THE WEST
SHOULD INSURE THAT THE USSR DOES NOT ADOPT THE
LATTER COURSE, BUT FEELS THAT THE DEMOCRATIC STATES
ARE PREOCCUPIED WITH PETTY CONCERNS AND RISK BECOMING

UNGOVERNABLE. END SUMMARY.

2. I CALLED MARCH 24 ON STRAUSS, THE LEADER OF THE CONSERVATIVE CSU AND A NATIONAL, IF CONTROVERSIAL, POLITICAL LEADER IN THE FRG. HE HAD RECENTLY RETURNED FROM TOGO AND ZAIRE (BOTH COUNTRIES WHICH HE HAS VISITED FREQUENTLY IN THE PAST) AND I FOUND HIM DIFFICULT TO DIVERT FROM A RAMBLING BUT INTENSE DISCUSSION OF AFRICAN PROBLEMS. HE DESCRIBED TOGO AS STABLE, BUT SAID PRESIDENT EYADEMA IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE EVOLUTION OF EVENTS IN DAHOMEY AND NIGERIA IN A WAY WHICH COULD AFFECT TOGO'S SECURITY ADVERSELY. ALTHOUGH THE TOGO SECURITY FORCES ARE WELL TRAINED AND RELATIVELY WELL-EQUIPPED, STRAUSS SAID EYADEMA IS INTERESTED IN OBTAINING ADDITIONAL ARMS SUPPLIES FROM THE FRG. STRAUSS INDICATED THAT HE FAVORED THIS INTEREST AND WOULD USE HIS INFLUENCE TO SUPPORT IT.

3. STRAUSS SAID HE HAD SPENT THREE DAYS WITH MOBUTU, PART OF THE TIME IN THE LATTER'S HOME VILLAGE AND PART ON HIS RIVER BOAT. MOBUTU HAD RECEIVED WORD OF THE INVASION OF SHABA THE LAST NIGHT OF STRAUSS' STAY AND HAD BEEN VISIBLY SHAKEN BY THE NEWS. STRAUSS WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE ABILITY OF THE ZAIRE ARMED FORCES TO MEET THE INVASION EFFECTIVELY, AND HE SAID MOBUTU HIMSELF REALIZES HIS DESPERATE PLIGHT AND IS READY TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE FROM ANYWHERE. HE APPARENTLY DISCUSSED WITH STRAUSS THE IDEA OF OBTAINING SOME 500

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 05297 01 OF 02 251544Z

"WHITE VOLUNTEERS" FROM RHODESIA TO STIFFEN HIS FORCES, AND TALKED OF A SCHEME (WHICH STRAUSS THOUGHT UNREALISTIC) OF OBTAINING WEAPONS THROUGH SOUTH AFRICA AND WITH SOUTH AFRICAN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. WHEN STRAUSS ASKED MOBUTU HOW THIS WOULD SQUARE WITH MOBUTU'S IMAGE AND HIS PUBLIC SPEECHES, MOBUTU HAD REPLIED THAT IT WAS "NECESSARY TO SEPARATE RHETORIC FROM REALITY."

4. STRAUSS TALKED AT LENGTH ABOUT THE DANGER OF BOTH ZAIRE AND NIGERIA BREAKING UP AND THE PRESSURES THIS WOULD PUT ON RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA. HE FEELS IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PERSUADE IAN SMITH TO NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT WITH BISHOP MUGABE PROVIDING FOR GRADUAL MOVEMENT TOWARD MAJORITY RULE; OTHERWISE, HE FORESEES A BLOODBATH, THE EXODUS OF REMAINING WHITES AND A TAKEOVER OF RHODESIA BY EXTREMIST FORCES. THIS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 05297 02 OF 02 251544Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 AF-04 ACDA-10
IO-06 DHA-02 PM-03 SP-02 L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 /061 W
-----251643Z 103924 /53

R 251532Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6821
INFO AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 05297

LIMDIS

WOULD LEAVE SOUTH AFRICA ISOLATED AND EXPOSED. IN THE FACE OF SUCH A PROSPECT, STRAUSS DOES NOT EXCLUDE THAT VORSTER WOULD ACQUIESCE IN A DEAL WITH THE USSR WHEREIN THE LATTER WOULD ACQUIRE USE OF BASES IN SOUTH AFRICA IN EXCHANGE FOR A PLEDGE BY THE SOVIETS TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT IN RHODESIA. STRAUSS EMPHASIZED HIS BELIEF THAT THE WEST SHOULD NOT FORCE SOUTH AFRICA INTO ISOLATION; HE SEES THE NEED FOR CHANGE IN THE APARTHIED POLICY BUT ARGUED FOR A STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH.

5. IN OTHER AREAS, STRAUSS SPOKE GLOOMILY OF THE WEAKNESS AND DISUNITY OF EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS AND THEIR TENDENCY TO FOLLOW A "GESELLSCHAFT POLITIK" OF DEALING WITH PETTY CURRENT PROBLEMS WHILE IGNORING GREATER DANGERS. HE FOUND NO CAUSE FOR CHEER IN THE GREEK AND TURKISH SITUATIONS, AND SPOKE OF THE OMINOUS BUILDUP OF SOVIET ARMS IN LIBYA, WHICH HE BELIEVES IS INTENDED FOR CONTINGENCY USE BY THE USSR AGAINST EGYPT AND MOROCCO.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 05297 02 OF 02 251544Z

6. REGARDING THE USSR, STRAUSS FORESEES A TIME, PERHAPS NOT TOO FAR DISTANT, WHEN THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP WILL BE FACED WITH THE NECESSITY OF DRASTICALLY REVISING SOVIET SOCIETY TO PERMIT GREATER RECOGNITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OR, ALTERNATIVELY, OF USING ITS MASSIVE ARMAMENTS FOR FOREIGN ADVENTURES IN AN EFFORT TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM INTERNAL PROBLEMS AND REESTABLISH DISCIPLINE WITHIN ITS EMPIRE. HE WANTS THE WEST TO BE STRONG ENOUGH TO PREVENT THE LATTER COURSE, BUT IS NOT SANGUINE IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE STATES RISK BECOMING UNGOVERNABLE AND "ONE MAGAZINE CAN CAUSE A GOVERNMENT CRISIS" (A REFERENCE TO THE REVELATION BY DER SPIEGEL OF THE TRAUBE BUGGING AFFAIR IN THE FRG).

7. STRAUSS INDICATED THAT HE WAS PLANNING A VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN JUNE OR SEPTEMBER OF THIS YEAR WITH A VIEW TO MEETING MEMBERS OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AND ADVISING THEM OF THE VIEWS OF HIS PARTY. HE IS ALSO CONSIDERING WRITING A LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER TO UNDERLINE HIS CONCERNS ABOUT AFRICAN EVENTS ("THE WEST CANNOT STAND A SECOND ANGOLA") BUT HE IS HESITATING TO DO SO FOR FEAR OF BEING CONSIDERED A "BUSYBODY."

8. COMMENT. AS OUR CONVERSATION DEMONSTRATED, STRAUSS LIKES TO THINK IN TERMS OF THE "BIG PICTURE" AND HIS VIEWS RANGE FAR BEYOND FRG POLITICS. OBVIOUSLY EXTREMELY CONSERVATIVELY ORIENTED, HE IS AN ABLE MAN AND A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH IN GERMAN POLITICS. DESPITE OCCASIONAL SHARP CRITICISMS OF THE US, HE CONSIDERS HIMSELF TO BE PRO-AMERICAN AND HE ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO GOOD US-FRG RELATIONS.

9. MOBUTU'S VIEWS, AS DESCRIBED BY STRAUSS, ON DEALING WITH THE ATTACK AGAINST ZAIRE SEEM SURPRISING BUT ARE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 05297 02 OF 02 251544Z

REPORTED AS HE STATED THEM. END COMMENT.
STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, PARTY LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BONN05297
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770103-0186
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770323/aaaaatva.tel
Line Count: 215
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4f9361b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3001455
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRANZ-JOSEF STRAUSS ON AFRICA AND EAST- WEST RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, XA, GE, XT, XH, CSU, (STRAUSS, FRANZ-JOSEF)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4f9361b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009